

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 29 July 2024

Title: 2024/25 Performance & Financial Management Report to
31 May 2024

Portfolios:	Elected Mayor	Cabinet Member:	Dame Norma Redfearn DBE
	Finance and Resources		Councillor Anthony McMullen
	Deputy Mayor		Councillor Carl Johnson

Report from: Corporate Strategy and Finance

Responsible Officer: Jackie Laughton, Assistant Chief Executive Tel: 643 5724

Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources Tel: 643 5701

Wards affected: All

1.1 Executive Summary

1.1.1 This report provides Cabinet with a full overview of both the service delivery performance and budget position across the Authority as at 31 May 2024. For performance, it sets out the key areas of service delivery for Cabinet to note, including where this impacts in budget terms. In terms of the budget, it sets out the forecast outturn position to 31 March 2025 for both revenue and capital.

1.1.2 The report also sets out for Cabinet to note the current position in relation to schools' finance, the Authority's Investment Plan, developers' contributions and

treasury management. In addition, it provides details of additional revenue and capital grants received up until 31 May 2024 for Cabinet to approve.

- 1.1.3 From a performance point of view, service delivery overall across the Authority remains strong. The Authority continues to manage high levels of demand in a number of areas including Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), children in care, children in need, home care provision, residential and nursing care placements all of which have financial implications. Key areas of strength are delivery of the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025 priorities such as the affordable homes programme and carbon net zero. The Ambition for North Tyneside Programme is progressing well with regeneration projects across the four areas of the borough. Capital investment continues to deliver planned improvement works helping maintain council homes at the decent homes standard. Council Tax and Business Rates collection also remains on track and better than national and regional comparators.
- 1.1.4 The Authority continues to experience challenges in some areas of delivery, which impact on the overall financial forecast for the year. As part of the 2024-2028 MTFP there were 13 workstreams established to address the pressures over the 4-year period. From a budget perspective, whilst the MTFP looked to address the pressures identified, this was over the full life of the workstreams and work is on-going to update the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for new emerging pressures. The forecast net pressure on the general fund for the current year as at 31 May 2024 is [£13.676m], which is a worsening of [£6.447m] compared to the 2023/24 outturn position, and the Housing Revenue Account has a forecast underspend of £0.031m for 2024-25.
- 1.1.5 These figures are presented on a prudent basis, and work by Cabinet Members and senior officers is underway to address these pressures during the year. Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are meeting on a weekly basis to track progress in addition to the formal budget monitoring to Cabinet on a bi-monthly basis.
- 1.1.6 Despite this prudent approach, Cabinet will note the potential scale of the financial challenge this year. Work has been undertaken to assess the component parts of this forecast overspend, which has confirmed that the majority were identified as part of the 2024/25 budget setting process. As this report and accompanying appendices set out, the key areas of pressure are already part of the key MTFP projects for 2024-2028, but the scale and acceleration of the pressures was greater than anticipated when the MTFP was agreed in February.
- 1.1.7 In addition, some unforeseen pressures are arising, notably the proposed pay award for the year. Whilst this is not agreed, the current proposal from the

Local Government Employers equates to circa 4.4% for the Authority (it is a combination of a £1,290 or 2.5% depending on grade). This is above the 3.5% provided for in the budget.

- 1.1.8 Within Children's Services, there is an overall pressure of £8.380m which is driven by similar trends to the outturn position, despite the additional growth included in the 2024/25 budget. The number of children in care was 362 in May and whilst this is broadly in line with the MTFP workstream, the placement mix is too reliant on more expensive external residential care provision. In addition to this market forces have meant the average cost per placement has significantly increased, the current average weekly cost to the Authority for an external residential care placement is £6,916, compared to £5,945 in May 2023, however this is still below costs which some other local authorities are incurring. The Authority also has a higher reliance on external fostering arrangements which, while preferable to residential care, still results in a forecast pressure.
- 1.1.9 Children's Disability Services are supporting children with increasingly complex needs and are often required to support children in bespoke care arrangements where market failure results in no alternative care plans being available. There is also increasing delay and challenge in the corresponding health income to support these complex children.
- 1.1.10 Home to school transport has seen a reduction in the reported pressure since the outturn position due to the additional budget allocated as part of MTFP Home to School Transport workstream in addition to a stabilisation of the numbers of pupils receiving the service. However there remains a significant challenge as the workstream continues to focus on the identified savings, aiming to bring the service into balance within the 4 years of the MTFP.
- 1.1.11 Adult Social Care has seen inflationary pressures from external providers above that identified in the Health and Social Care MTFP workstream as well as increased activity across all commissioned services. This combined with complex clients transitioning from both hospital settings and Children's Services has resulted in a forecasted pressure of £3.873m.
- 1.1.12 Both Resources and Housing are showing pressures totalling £1m on Homeless presentations who are accommodated in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. This is after the use of the Homeless Prevention Grant and claimable Housing Benefit Subsidy are taken into account. A working group is reviewing this to focus on mitigating actions for the future.

1.1.13 The Authority's current position is a total forecasted pressure of £13.676m while the 2024/2028 MTFP programme of work continues and will be revised and updated to reflect new emerging pressures and mitigating actions.

1.2 Recommendations

1.2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (a) notes the update provided on the Performance of the Authority including updated data on the key pressures facing the Authority and progress against the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025;
- (b) notes the forecast budget monitoring position for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA), schools finance and Treasury Management together with the service delivery performance position across the Authority as at 31 May 2024 (sections 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3 and 1.5.5 of this report);
- (c) notes the Authority's Investment Plan spend of £7.252m to 31 May 2024 and the proposed financing of the Plan to the end of the year (section 1.5.4 of this report);
- (d) approves reprofiling of £2.581m from 2024/25 into future years, and variations of £6.117m within the 2024-2029 Investment Plan (section 1.5.4 of this report) and note the current position with Developers' Contributions (section 1.5.6); and
- (e) approves the receipt of £0.985m new revenue grants (as outlined in section 1.5.7 of this report), £2.406m of new capital grants (as outlined in section 1.5.8 of this report).

1.3 Forward Plan:

1.3.1 Twenty-eight days' notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 21 June 2024.

1.4 Authority Plan and Policy Framework:

1.4.1 This report relates to all priorities in the Our North Tyneside Plan.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 General Fund

- 1.5.1.1 Service delivery overall across the Authority remains strong, particularly in relation to the key policy priorities of the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021–2025. The Authority is on track against its commitment to become carbon net-zero by 2030. Carbon reduction in Authority service operations has achieved 59% against the baseline year of 2010/11. The ambition to deliver 5,000 Affordable Homes is on track against the profiled target with 2,247 homes delivered at the end of quarter four. The Ambition for North Tyneside Programme is progressing with regeneration projects in all four areas of the borough. North Tyneside continues to be one of the safest places in the country with comparably low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. Council Tax and Business Rates collection remains strong and comparable with national performance.
- 1.5.1.2 Since the outturn report, the number of children in care has increased by 10, from 352 children in our care in March to 362 in May. The number of budgeted children in care was temporarily increased as part of the 2024–28 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 365, as work is ongoing to reach the core number, which remains at 330 children. Although now slightly below the 2024/25 overall target, the aim is for a maximum of 26 children to be accommodated in external residential placements for 2024/25, however there are currently 36 external placements. In addition to the increased number, there are also increasing market forces driving up the average weekly cost of external residential placements.
- 1.5.1.3 The overall level of children in need has decreased to 1,609 (1,736 in March), still slightly higher than the 1,600-figure used to estimate required social work capacity. The Handling Children’s Finance MTFP workstream identified an increase to the net placement budgets of £5.452m in 2024/25, which assumed a level of 365 children in care, 1,600 children in need, and a staffing requirement of 74 social workers.
- 1.5.1.4 The result of the total children in care, the current mix of placements and the market forces in the external residential care market has driven a worsening, to a total forecasted pressure in Children’s Services of £8.380m. Further detail is provided in Annex 2 at section 1.3.
- 1.5.1.5 The Home to School Transport MTFP workstream aims to bring the service back into balance over the 4-year period through a combination of additional budget £1.500m and savings. The number of children requiring home to school transport has stabilised over the last year, following a year-on-year increase in the number of pupils requiring the service. In May 2024 there were 862 pupils receiving home to school transport compared to 877 in

March 2023 and 897 in May 2023. However, there has not been the level of assumed reductions in children with complex needs who have support with transport as assumed in year 1 of the workstream. This is linked to the number of pupils with EHCPs the Authority maintains. This, along with inflationary pressures on the transport contracts, means that Home to School Transport has a pressure of £1.776m.

- 1.5.1.6 As part of the Health & Social Care MTFP workstream within Adults Services the focus remains to facilitate hospital discharge with the “Home First” model and reduce the number of clients in short- and long-term residential and nursing care placements by maximising the use of home care. The number of home care hours provided has shown significant increase, reducing the number of people in short-term residential placements and the number of clients waiting for homecare services is at its lowest level in three years with 14 clients waiting for homecare services.
- 1.5.1.7 The overall number of clients in residential and nursing care has decreased from 1,180 in March 2024 to 1,126 in May 2024 and the trend of new short and long-term placements has significantly decreased compared to the previous year, largely due to the increase in home care hours being provided. However, the turnover in the number of clients leaving and joining the service continues to be high. The rate of requests for services also remains high at 396 requests per 100,000 population in May 2024, compared to 372 per 100,000 population in May 2023.
- 1.5.1.8 As Adult Services continues to focus on the “Home First” approach to hospital discharge and transition clients combined with the increased provider inflation, the forecast financial position has worsened by £1.458m since Outturn with an overall expected pressure for the Directorate of £3.873m.
- 1.5.1.9 As well as the above pressures the Authority are also seeing emerging pressures relating to homelessness, additional external legal costs and higher than anticipated premises costs. There are some organisation-wide savings resulting from treasury management savings of (£1.000m), which partly offset the overall forecast pressure, further detail is included in section 1 of the Annex 2.
- 1.5.1.10 As at 31 May 2024, the Authority is showing a total forecast net pressure for the current year of £13.676m. This is an increased pressure of £6.447m since 2023/24 Outturn.
- 1.5.1.11 A more detailed commentary of the overall financial position is contained in section 1 of Annex 2. However, the key areas of variation behind the forecast

net pressure for the current year as at 31 May 2024 of £13.676m are summarised in the following table.

1.5.1.15 Table 1: 2024/25 General Fund Revenue Forecast Outturn as at 31 May 2024 by Directorate

Directorates	Budget	Forecast May	Variance May	Variance Outturn	Change since Outturn
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adults Services	69.172	73.045	3.873	2.415	1.458
Children's Services	52.539	60.919	8.380	12.804	(4.424)
Public Health	1.613	1.613	0.000	(0.306)	0.306
Environment	43.922	44.522	0.600	(0.943)	1.543
Regeneration & Economic Development	11.880	11.687	(0.193)	(0.489)	0.296
Corporate Strategy	2.379	2.997	0.618	0.145	0.473
Chief Executive Office	(0.108)	(0.128)	(0.020)	(0.042)	0.022
Resources	9.610	10.361	0.751	2.714	(1.963)
General Fund Housing	2.446	2.646	0.200	(0.116)	0.316
Central Items	(17.375)	(17.908)	(0.533)	(8.953)	8.420
Support Services	19.170	19.170	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Authority	195.248	208.924	13.676	7.229	6.447

1.5.1.16 The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is working with Senior Officers across the organisation to update the 2024-28 MTFP workstreams and to develop a range of in-year mitigations that will be explored to support the 2024/25 position.

1.5.2 Schools

1.5.2.1 Individual schools are required to submit their rolling three-year budget plan to the Authority by 31 May each year. All schools have provided returns but some still require final Governor approval, therefore the figures for 2024/25 included in this report are draft.

1.5.2.2 The provisional outturn for school balances for 2023/24 was a deficit of £2.930m, which included additional funding from the Department for Education (DfE) of £1.868m. Budget plans submitted by schools indicate that this will increase to a deficit of £9.707m by the end of 2024/25. There are

currently 16 schools that have submitted a deficit budget plan for 2024/25. Cabinet should note that there are six new schools requiring a licenced deficit agreement in 2024/25 two which have a structural deficit, which means that the school is unable to submit a recovery plan which shows it coming back into financial balance within 3 years. The Authority will hold budget review sessions with the sixteen schools involved throughout July.

- 1.5.2.3 Cabinet will recall there has also been significant pressures within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in relation to the High Needs block which ended 2023/24 with an overspend of £10.494m. As reported previously, to address these pressures, the Authority joined the DfE's Safety Valve Intervention Programme, 2023/24 was the first year of the DSG Management Plan and the Authority remains on track to reach a positive in-year balance by the end 2027/2028. The current position includes the first 2 allocations of funding from the DfE of £9.750m.
- 1.5.2.4 The DSG management plan forecasted that as of January 2024 the Authority would maintain 2,134 Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and at 2,164 EHCPs maintained as of January, the number was slightly higher with 28 plans more than forecasted. In May 2024, there are 2,246 EHCPs, an increase of 21 EHCPs since March 2024. The growth rate of EHCPs maintained by the authority has significantly decreased over the last two years and performance is better than national and regional rates. This demonstrates the success of initiatives within the DSG management plan to manage the continuing high demand for Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments in North Tyneside.
- 1.5.2.5 As part of the Safety Valve Intervention Programme, the Authority also received £4.7m from the DfE in capital funding to support the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Management Plan. This will be used to develop an Early Years hub, increase the Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs) in schools and £0.833m was allocated to "Funding for Inclusion". A joint working group was established with schools and settings and the funding for inclusion capital allocation has been allocated to the schools which submitted successful applications.

1.5.3 Housing Revenue Account

- 1.5.3.1 Again, performance is holding relatively strong in this area. Housing rental income collection ended up at 93.3% at the end of quarter 4 in 2023-24, but with a strong overall level of collection, given the increased numbers moving over to Universal Credit, and the overall increase in rent. Arrears is a continuing critical area of performance, and officers are monitoring increasing arrears levels for current tenants. A particular area of focus for

2024/25 will be the change in the timetable which will accelerate the numbers of existing tenants moving across to UC. Empty homes are still trending at relatively lower levels, currently at around 0.75%, which represents just over 100 homes out of over 14,000 in total. This helps the overall income position significantly as every pound collected counts, by helping to maximise the amount of rent that can be collected and invested in improving service delivery to tenants.

1.5.3.2 The number of homeless presentations to the Authority is rising year on year. At the end of May 2024 there had been 620 homeless presentations this financial year, compared to 431 cumulatively in May 2023 and 416 cumulatively in May 2022. The proportion of priority homeless acceptances has dropped below 5%, which has been the consistent proportion for a number of years, to 3.8% at the end of May 2024. The costs attached to homelessness have also increased as the Authority has a statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation.

1.5.3.3 The projected outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2024/25 is an underspend of £0.031m. The main areas of pressure relate to utility costs across the sheltered estate, and the forecast impact of the tabled 2024/25 pay award although this is forecast to be lower than the previous year settlement, but which is still marginally higher than was budgeted for in the HRA Business Plan. These pressures are offset by a combination of small savings across the service, from vacancy assumptions through to reducing non-essential spend, and maximising other income. The Repairs budget continues to manage the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and the impact on material and sub-contractor costs, as well as the impact of the pay award mentioned above, however, at the current time this budget is forecast to come in on budget overall.

1.5.4 Investment Plan

1.5.4.1 The investment plan as approved at full Council in February 2024 for 2024-2029 totals £334.444m (£104.727m in 2024/25 and is detailed in table 21 of Annex 2, within section 4.

1.5.4.2 As part of 2023/24 Monitoring and Outturn £16.044m of reprogramming was identified (changes to the anticipated delivery into future financial years), and proposals of variations of £4.747m (changes to the financing of the Plan) over the investment plan. As part of May 2024 Monitoring, further reprogramming of £2.581m and £6.117m of variations has been identified. Details of which are set out in Section 4 of Annex 2, paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3.

1.5.4.3 At the end of May 2024, spend of £7.252m had been incurred in year, representing 6.92% of the Council approved plan for 2024/25. This is broadly in line with spend trajectory incurred on average at this point in time in prior years.

1.5.4.4 At the end of May 2024 investment had been made in the following areas:

- **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme;** Almost £2.500m has been invested to date in delivering planned improvement works to maintain homes to the decent homes standard. This includes circa £1.400m on kitchen and bathroom upgrades, structural works and heating replacements. £0.517m has been spent on the HRA programme of new builds and residential conversions. £0.200m has been spent on disabled adaptations including stairlift installations.
- **Highways and Infrastructure Improvements;** almost £1.200m of improvement works have been delivered to date throughout the Borough including integrated transport improvements. Just under £1.00m has been invested in 2024/25 on the Seafront Sustainable route, with £0.140m invested in road resurfacing during April and May of 2024.
- **Affordable homes delivery;** investment of over £0.750m on works associated with the delivery of affordable homes through the Authority's Trading Company, as well as the HRA New Build programme. A further £0.600m has been spent relating to a loan to the Authority's Trading Company to progress additional home purchases and investments.
- **Education improvement works;** £0.910m of spend incurred to date, with £0.664m relating to expenditure for ground works for modular accommodation at Fordley Primary.
- **Strategic Asset Maintenance;** Almost £0.210m has been invested delivering planned preventative maintenance activity within the Authority's operational asset portfolio.
- **Leisure Facilities;** £0.320m has been invested to date delivering improvement works to the Authority's leisure facilities. Just under £0.294m relating to the ongoing works at St Peter's Sports playing fields, and £0.025m relating to investment in the Borough's play sites.
- **Regeneration projects;** almost £0.500m has been invested to date on the Authority's regeneration projects across the Borough. Spend in 2024/25 primarily relates to the Embankment Walkway works.

1.5.5 Treasury Management

- 1.5.5.1 As at 31 May 2024, the level of external borrowing (excluding PFI) is £408.443m for the period, with the level of internal funding forecast to remain relatively high for the year and is projected to be £93.962m (£86.503m at 31 March 2024). This is in line with the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy as this minimises external interest charges wherever possible, providing the optimal financial position for the Authority in line with the MTFP project on Financial Management.
- 1.5.5.2 As at 31 May 2024, the Authority had total treasury investments of £5.000m. Year to date Income generated through interest earned on investments from combined General Fund and HRA balances for 2023/24 is £0.083m. The Authority invests in line with Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance, maintaining a low-risk approach to investments.

1.5.6 Developer Contributions

- 1.5.6.1 Section 106 monies relate to contributions received by the Authority through the planning process. £21.512m of contributions have been received to date, with £16.379m spent or committed through the Investment Programme Board process to date. £5.133m as of 30 May 2024 remains uncommitted, a reduction from £6.032m at the year end, with officers developing plans to utilise this in line with the conditions of the section 106 agreements and the Authority's strategic objectives. Further information is provided in section 6 of the Annex 2 and shows an improving position in terms of utilisation.
- 1.5.6.2 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) £1.219m funding has been received by the Authority to date. CIL continues to develop within the Authority and further updates will be incorporated within this report when projects are developed, and funds utilised.

1.5.7 New Revenue Grants Received

- 1.5.7.1 Table 2 below sets out the details of new revenue grants received up to end May 2024 for Cabinet's approval.
- 1.5.7.2 **Table 2: Grants Received April and May 2024**

Directorate	Grant Provider	Grant	Purpose	2024/25 value £m
Children's Services	Department for Education	Extension of the Role of Virtual School Heads to children with a social worker and children in kinship care grant	Support to local authorities to appoint a Virtual School Head for children, with social worker support.	0.127
Environment	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	Biodiversity Net Gain Grant 31/7104 (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025).	To assist authorities to deliver biodiversity net gain.	0.027

Children's Services	Department for Education	Children's Social Care Innovation Programme Staying Close Provision	Establishing a 6 bedroom 'Staying Close' supported accommodation with a shared management team working between Sycamore House (existing residential children's home) and Elm House (Staying Close provision).	0.285
Environment	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	Section 31 agreements - Duty to consult on Street Trees (Env Act 2021)	Support for carrying consultation on tree felling. out	0.006
Public Health	Northumbria PCC	Consolidated Hotspot Response Fund	Increased uniformed presence in identified hotspots to reduce ASB	0.060
Children's Services	Youth Custody Service/HM Prison & Probation Services	Remands to youth secure accommodation of children and young people	Transfer of responsibility to Local Authorities for cost of remand to youth detention.	0.012
Children's Services	National Development Team for Inclusion	Supported Internships Grant - Internship Works	This grant is to support all Local Authorities to access, establish and/or develop Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) employment forums to improve the provision of Supported Internships across the country.	0.020
Children's Services	National Development Team for Inclusion	Supported Internships Grant - Explore Your Potential	This grant is to support all Local Authorities to access, establish and/or develop SEND employment forums to improve the provision of Supported Internships across the country.	0.161
Children's Services	Department for Education	S31 Extension of the Role of Virtual School Heads to Certain previously Looked After Children Implementation Grant	To provide support to local authorities to help them to meet their duty to appoint a Virtual School Head for previously looked-after children and make information and advice available.	0.054

Children's Services	Department for Education	Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) post-16 funding	To provide support to local authorities in England to implement the role of Virtual School Head for post-16 looked-after children and care leavers.	0.054
Children's Services	Department for Education	Early Years Delivery Support Funding	National wraparound programme	0.049
Public Health	Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities	Healthy Homes Project	Support local authorities in tackling damp and mould hazards in private rented properties in the areas of greatest need.	0.130
Total				0.985

1.5.8 New Capital Grants Received

1.5.8.1 Table 3 below sets out the details of new capital grants received up to end May 2024 for Cabinet's approval.

1.5.8.2 Table 3: Capital Grants Received April and May 2024/25

Directorate	Grant Provider	Grant / Project	Purpose	2024/25 value £m
Resources	SALIX	Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	Funding to support low carbon heating schemes in White Swan Centre and North Shields Customer First Centre	1.696
Corporate Strategy	North of Tyne Combined Authority	UKSPF Community Partnership	Investment in voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE) sector to enhance and provide facilities for the sector.	0.400
Housing	DLUHC	Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	Funding for the provision of home adaptations to help eligible older and disabled people to live independently. Increase in allocation for 2024/25	0.170

Resources	War Memorials Trust	Asset Planned Maintenance	Restoration/improvement of three war memorials within the Borough	0.086
Regeneration	Department for Transport	Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant (TSOG)	Measures to fund traffic management systems maintenance and upgrading with the Borough	0.054
Total				2.406

1.6 Decision Options:

1.6.1 The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

1.6.2 Option 1

Cabinet agrees the recommendations at paragraph 1.2 of this report.

1.6.3 Options 2

Cabinet does not agree the recommendations at paragraph 1.2 of this report.

1.7 Reasons for Recommended Option:

1.7.1 Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

1.7.2 Cabinet is recommended to agree the proposals set out in section 1.2 of this report as it is important that Cabinet continues to monitor performance against the Budget, especially given the current level of financial pressures faced by the public sector. It is also important that Cabinet agrees to receive the revenue and capital grants referred to in the report.

1.8 Appendices:

Annex 1: Performance and Financial Management Report to 31 May 2024

Annex 2: Financial Management Report to 31 May 2024

Appendix 1: Investment Plan Summary

Appendix 2: S106 Summary & Detail

1.9 Contact Officers:

Jon Ritchie – Corporate Finance matters – Tel. (0191) 643 5701

David Mason – Corporate Finance matters – Tel. (0191) 643 5747

Caroline Maxwell – Corporate Finance and General Fund matters – Tel. (0191) 643 7027

Jane Cross – Corporate Finance and General Fund matters – Tel. (0191) 643 3166

Darrell Campbell – Housing Revenue Account matters – Tel. (0191) 643 7052

Jackie Laughton – Policy and Performance matters – Tel. (0191) 643 5724

Pam Colby – Policy and Performance matters – Tel. (0191) 643 7252

1.10 Background Information:

1.10.1 The following background papers and research reports have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the offices of the author:

(a) Revenue budget 2023/24

https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/web-page-related-files/NTC%20Revenue%20Budget%202023_24.pdf

(b) Investment Plan 2023–2028

<https://democracy.northtyneside.gov.uk/documents/s11473/Annex%201%20Appendix%20D%20i%202023%20-%202028%20Investment%20Plan.pdf>

(Agenda reports pack 16 February 2023 – Appendix D(i))

(c) Reserves and Balances Policy

<https://democracy.northtyneside.gov.uk/documents/s11480/Annex%201%20Appendix%20G%20-%202023-24%20Reserves%20and%20Balances%20Policy.pdf>

(Agenda reports pack 16 February 2023 – Appendix G)

(d) Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Performance Report

<https://democracy.northtyneside.gov.uk/documents/s11482/Annex%201%20Appendix%20I%20-%202023-24%20Report%20of%20the%20Overview%20Scrutiny%20and%20Policy%20Development%20Committee%20Jan%20202.pdf>

(Agenda reports pack 16 February 2023 – Appendix I)

(e) North Tyneside Safety Valve Agreement

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1142857/North_Tyneside_Safety_Valve_Agreement_2022-2023.pdf

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and Other Resources

2.1.1 Financial and other resources implications are covered in the body of the report.

2.2 Legal

2.2.1 The Authority has a duty to ensure it can deliver a balanced budget. The Local Government Act 2003 imposes a duty on an authority to monitor its budgets during the year and consider what action to take if a potential deterioration is identified.

2.3 Consultation/Community Engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Internal consultation has taken place with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, the Elected Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Members, the Senior Leadership Team and Senior Finance Officers.

2.3.2 External Consultation / Engagement

The 2024/25 budget was completed after widespread consultation and community engagement in line with the Authority's approved Budget Engagement Strategy.

2.4 Human Rights

2.4.1 The proposals within this report do not have direct implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998.

2.5 Equalities and Diversity

2.5.1 There are no direct equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

2.6 Risk Management

2.6.1 Potential future financial pressures against the Authority are covered in this report and registered through the Authority's risk management process.

2.7 Crime and Disorder

2.7.1 There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and Sustainability

2.8.1 There are no direct environmental and sustainability implications arising from this report.

PART 3 – SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Director of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Assistant Chief Executive